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EX-SPY CONVICTED IN EXPLOSIVES PLOT

Wilson Guilty on All 4 Counts Tied to Libyan Terrorists

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HOUSTON, Feb. 5 — Edwin P. Wilson, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, was found guilty today of four counts of illegally transporting 29 tons of plastic explosives to Libya in 1977.

A Federal jury of six men and six women deliberated six and a half hours to reach its decision, which rejected an assertion by the defense that Mr. Wilson had continued to act with the authority of the C.I.A.

Shortly after the verdict, the prosecution filed a motion asking Federal District Judge Ross Sterling to declare Mr. Wilson "a dangerous special offender" because of an alleged attempt to pay an assassin \$1 million to kill two prosecutors, five witnesses in the case, and two others.

Could Lengthen Sentence

That move could add eight years to Mr. Wilson's possible sentence of 17 years in prison and \$145,000 fine. He also faces a 15-year sentence and a \$200,000 fine resulting from his conviction in November of smuggling fire-arms to Libya.

Mr. Wilson, 54 years old, was found guilty of four counts growing out of an elaborate plot that resulted in the shipment of 42,900 pounds of strategically sensitive C-4 plastic explosives for use by Libyan terrorists, according to the Government's case.

The former agent was found guilty of conspiracy to illegally transport explo-

sives, filing a false United States Customs document, exporting explosives without a required State Department license and illegally transporting explosives by cargo plane.

From the beginning of the trial there was no real dispute over whether the shipment of C-4 explosives to Libya had occurred.

The defense simply maintained on the one hand that Mr. Wilson was not responsible for it, acting only as a go-between, and on the other, that whatever part he took in the scheme was to further his credibility with the Libyans as a "de facto agent of the C.I.A.," acting on a "deep cover" basis.

According to the motion presented to Judge Sterling after the verdict, Mr. Wilson, while incarcerated in New York, tried to get a fellow inmate to help him find a "hit man" to kill nine persons, five of them witnesses at the trial just completed and two prosecutors who worked extensively on the case but did not participate in this trial. The motion for the extended sentence alleged that, all told, Mr. Wilson offered about \$1 million in cash for the proposed murders. It went on to say that "the two assistant United States attorneys to be killed are quite expensive — \$250,000 each."

The two Federal attorneys named as potential targets for assassination were E. Lawrence Barcella Jr. and Carol E. Bruce, both of whom worked for about five years on the case against Mr. Wilson. The motion maintained that Mr. Wilson offered about \$50,000 each for the killing of seven others, five of them witnesses at the trial.

The motion went on to say that Mr. Wilson "caused his son to pay \$10,000 to the alleged hit man," who was actually a Federal agent acting under cover.

The five witnesses targeted for assassination, the motion said, were Ernest R. Keiser, a New York businessman with extensive intelligence experience who lured Mr. Wilson back to New York where he was arrested last June; Reginald Slocumbe, a partner with Mr. Wilson in a freight forwarding company instrumental in shipping the explosives; Jerome S. Brower, president of an explosives manufacturing and trading concern who acquired and also arranged shipping of the explosives; Edward Coughlan, Mr. Wilson's accountant, and John Heath another associate of Mr. Wilson's who was the only witness to declare at the trial that Mr. Wilson had made any direct threats to him.

Two others, identified in the motion

only as Rafael Quintero and Francis Heydt, were also targets, the motion said.

Judge Sterling said that a hearing would be called sometime after the 10-day delay period required by statute at which both prosecution and defense would argue the motion. He has set no date for either the hearing or final sentencing.

In his opening argument eight days ago, Herald Price Fahringer, Mr. Wilson's lawyer, maintained that Mr. Wilson, who left the C.I.A. in 1971, was rerecruited in 1976, after a tour with naval intelligence, sent to Libya and "started sending back to this country a steady stream of intelligence."

Mr. Fahringer maintained, for example, that it was Mr. Wilson who learned of the purported plot by a Libyan "hit squad" to slip into the United States and assassinate high-ranking officials, including President Reagan.

Although the Government acknowledged that Mr. Wilson did indeed transmit some information to this country about the purported plot, which was never confirmed, he did so only after it had already been well publicized all over the world and also after Mr. Wilson was already under indictment.

The Government also countered the defense contention that Mr. Wilson had also uncovered a plot to sell the Libyans plans for a nuclear bomb by presenting evidence that the "plans" were a hoax, and that in any case Mr. Wilson himself was associated with the scheme to sell them to the Libyans.